

**REMARKS:**

The specification and claims of the referenced application have been amended in accordance with common U.S. Patent Practice. For the Examiner's convenience claims 1-26 have been canceled in order to avoid multiple dependencies, and new claims 27-53 corresponding to canceled claims 1-26 were added. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments. Entry is in order.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

**LOWE HAUPTMAN & BERNER, LLP**



Kenneth M. Berner  
Registration No. 37,093

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
(703) 684-1111 KMB/iyr  
Facsimile: (703) 518-5499  
**Date: January 20, 2005**